



TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT

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THE ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE FOR COOK COUNTY



Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
Herman Brewer, Bureau Chief

May 2014

Dear Friends,

Regional collaboration, civic engagement, fiscal responsibility, and improved efficiency were the highlights of our Second Quarter. Following the December regional summit, the seven northeast counties of Illinois have convened to discuss opportunities to enhance exports and streamlined truck permitting. We look forward to our continued collaboration in initiatives that promote a stronger regional economy,

Collaboration across counties is complemented by our local engagement efforts. Citizen participation at Planning for Progress meetings is shaping our vision for the County's long-range strategic plans.

Finally, we continue with our goal to improve internal operations. Significant savings in the amount of approximately \$10 million dollars will be realized through the Office of Capital Planning and Policy's opening of a digital imaging center for the Cook County Court System. Additionally, operations are being streamlined by our Department of Building and Zoning that now require the electronic submission of permit applications.

We cannot do this work alone and thank our partners for their continued efforts.

Herman Brewer
Bureau Chief

Stimulate Job and Economic Growth



President Preckwinkle Cuts Ribbon on New Records Storage and Digital Imaging Center in Cicero, IL - County Saves \$10 Million.

Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle and Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown announced the opening of the new Records Storage and Digital Imaging Center located at 1330 S. 54th Avenue in Cicero, Illinois on April 22nd.

The County's original plan for creating a storage solution was to renovate the existing Hawthorne warehouse in the North Lawndale neighborhood. That project was estimated to cost \$34 million. The total cost of purchasing and renovating the 260,728 square foot Cicero building was \$24.2 million, representing a \$10 million savings for the County. [Click here for more details.](#)

Plan and Invest Strategically in Communities



Comprehensive Planning Process Begins with the Public Outreach Process

During January and February, our Planning and Development team held the first round of public meetings on **Planning For Progress**. A meeting was held in South Cook, West Cook and North Cook. Each meeting had a full house of actively engaged participants. Working with the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMAP), we also had an interactive website, which received more than a 1,000 visitors.

We are just beginning our outreach and analysis, as we plan our focus groups. **Planning for Progress** is a dual-track comprehensive planning process that will guide funding requests, investments, and partnerships over the next five years. [Click here for details](#) and learn how to stay involved in our process.



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Build Partnerships to Leverage Resources

Cook County Receives Grant Awards

In our ongoing work to leverage resources and build partnerships, Cook County recently received important grant awards:

*The Cook County Department of Planning and Development within our Bureau was awarded \$13.9 million in CDBG-DR funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist disaster recovery efforts in response to declared major disasters occurring in Cook County in 2013. These funds can be used only for specific disaster recovery-related purposes. [Click here for the action plan.](#)

*Cook County and 17 additional municipalities in Cook County received \$4.1 million in Community Stabilization Grants from the State of Illinois Abandoned Property Program. Administered by the [Illinois Housing Development Authority \(IHDA\)](#), the new Abandoned Property Program is funded through filing fees paid by financial institutions. Fees are deposited into the Abandoned Residential Property Fund, a fund created by key legislation (Senate Bill 16) that Governor Quinn signed into law last year. [View complete release.](#)

*Cook County was also the recipient of a Visioning Session with the [Chicago Chapter of the American Planning Association \(APA\)](#). The APA hosted the session on April 16, 2014 in the third ward of Chicago Heights. Over 50 residents and many City employees came to the event and shared an exciting vision for the area.

Community Investment Corporation Announced the launch of the 1-4 Unit Rental Redevelopment Loan Program

The new \$26 million loan pool will make financing available to rehab and preserve groups of one- to four- unit buildings as affordable rental housing. Capitalized by eleven bank investors, a program-related investment by the MacArthur Foundation, and a grant from the Attorney

General's foreclosure settlement funds, the pool will be administered by Community Investment Corporation (CIC). For more information, [go to their website](#).

Streamline Operations to Improve Services and Efficiencies

Building and Zoning Now Requires Digital Submission of Applications



The Department of Building and Zoning now requires digital submissions for all applications and supporting documents. They accept an electronic copy on a flash drive or CD (PDF format). Applicants that have digital files 25MB or less are encouraged to email their submittals. Find out the details by going to their website: www.cookcountyiil.gov/buildingzoning.

CASE Program Strengthens Local Businesses and Boosts Economy

Apply to Participate

Chicago Anchors for a Strong Economy (CASE) is a network of Chicago's leading "anchor" institutions - hospitals, universities, cultural institutions, corporations, and others - committed to putting their purchasing power to work to accelerate growth. CASE will create economic opportunities for local suppliers by fostering strategic relationships with anchor institutions and equipping them with the necessary tools to successfully compete for contracts where needed.

How the program works:

CASE institutions identify areas of spending that could be redirected locally; this information is made available to relevant, competitive businesses that apply through CASE. 100 businesses will be selected throughout this year, in 5 groups of 20, for a capacity building program focused on "what it takes" to be an anchor supplier. Graduates of this program will receive connections and recommendations for bidding on specific anchor contract opportunities.

Minimum qualifications to apply include: a local presence within the City of Chicago or Cook County, and a product or service within an industry sector identified as priority spend by one of the participating anchors.

Please check out the CASE website: www.worldbusinesschicago.com/CASE for program details, frequently asked questions and to apply.

Resources and Links



Set Targets. Achieve Results.

The STAR Report features performance measures for each office and agency of Cook County. [Read the latest STAR report.](#)



Cook County Annual Report - 2013

Review the Cook County [Annual Report](#). The report includes a summary of work accomplished by our Bureau during the past year and highlights some of our major 2014 initiatives.

Cook County Bureau of Economic Development - About Us

Mission

- Stimulate Job and Economic Growth
- Plan and Invest Strategically in Communities
- Build Partnerships to Leverage Resources
- Streamline Operations to Improve Services and Efficiencies

Departments

- Building and Zoning
- Department of Planning and Development
- Office of Capital Planning and Policy
- Real Estate Management
- Zoning Board of Appeals

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